

**Governor's Advisory Council on Asian Pacific American Affairs
December 5, 2008 Meeting Summary**

The Governor's Advisory Council on Asian Pacific American Affairs held its December meeting at the Philippine American Community Center in Southfield, with H. Sook Wilkinson, Chairperson, presiding. This meeting was hosted by Council member Ernestina De Los Santos-Mac and Mr. Fred Porte, Executive Director of the PACCM.

A moment of silence was offered in memory of those wounded and killed during the bombings in Mumbai, India in late November.

Mr. Mirash "Mick" Dedvukaj, District Director of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, was guest speaker and presented an overview of the USCIS organization and Detroit District operations and programs. He presented an Immigration Toolkit to Chairperson Wilkinson.

Mr. Alberto Flores and Mr. Anthony Lewis, both of the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, gave information on ongoing and future civil rights events, including the Michigan Alliance Against Hate Crimes & Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) workshops, the 2009 MIAAHC Conference, race dialogue training, the 3rd Annual MLK Day Dialogue and the MDCR Civil Rights Youth Council.

Council member Guozhen Lu presented a proposal for a 2009 trip to China for Council members to consider. Based on interest expressed at this meeting, Dr. Lu will present more detailed information prior to or at the February meeting.

Other Business and Announcements: Business and Civil Rights committee leaders, Peter Wong and Roland Hwang, both suggested a letter of support from the Council to Governor Granholm in support of her efforts to help the Congress, automobile companies and their employees come to an agreement on a economic relief package; Council members voiced verbal approval for a letter or statement to the Governor.

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.. Next meeting of the Council will be on Friday, February 6, 2009 at the Priya Restaurant, Farmington Hills.

The Governor's Advisory Council on Asian Pacific American Affairs was created by a May 2005, Executive Order (No.2005 – 10) from Governor Jennifer M. Granholm, to advise the Governor and the Department of Civil Rights on policy matters pertaining to Asian and Pacific Americans in Michigan. H. Sook Wilkinson, PhD, was appointed Chair of the Council, which was placed administratively inside the Michigan Department of Civil Rights. A copy of the Governor's Executive Order is available on the Governor's website at <http://www.michigan.gov/gov>.